

22 March 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Office of General Counsel

ATTENTION :

[REDACTED]

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SUBJECT :

JPRS Contract with Ordained Clergyman

1. This memorandum solicits your advice on our response to a letter from [REDACTED] challenging the termination of his Independent Contract with JPRS. [REDACTED] does piecework translations in Indonesian from unclassified foreign press sources. He has been under contract since 1970. His earnings during 1976 were \$973. The termination action conformed to the policy stated in an IG Staff memorandum dated 29 January 1977--confirmed by [REDACTED], Special Assistant to the DDCI--proscribing JPRS contractual relationships with members of the American clergy. STAT

2. In response to the DDCI's policy direction, JPRS recently terminated contracts with four persons known to be ordained clergymen. The Chief, JPRS then sent a letter dated 23 February 1977 (Tab A) to all of the 750-odd JPRS Independent Contractors advising them of the policy of JPRS, an acknowledged Agency component, not to enter into contractual relationships with members of the U.S. press or clergy.

3. Upon receipt of the 23 February letter, [REDACTED] telephoned JPRS desk officer [REDACTED] his regular JPRS contact, to make known his status as an ordained Southern Baptist minister not now serving as pastor of a church. He followed up with a letter on 3 March (Tab B) expressing hope that he could continue to work for JPRS. Based on a determination that as an ordained minister [REDACTED] could not be kept on JPRS contractor rolls, the Chief, JPRS advised him on 9 March that his contract was being terminated (Tab C). STAT

4. [REDACTED] 16 March letter, attached as Tab D, now challenges the termination action and implicitly raises the possibility of litigation. We have sent you information copies of other responses to termination STAT

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actions and to the 23 February letter advising JPRS Independent Contractors of our policy. Two contractors have expressed views similar to [redacted] on the discriminatory nature of the policy. We anticipate more such reactions, although [redacted] is the only one so far to indicate intent to pursue the matter.

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5. We would appreciate your earliest advice on how to respond to [redacted] and on how to deal with similar cases in the future.

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FOR THE DIRECTOR, FBIS

[redacted]

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CHIEF, PRODUCTION GROUP  
Foreign Broadcast Information Service

Attachments:  
As stated

cc: Assistant to the Director ( [redacted] )  
Chief, JPRS

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